

(Bulletin for Statehouse, Capitol Mall Employees November 12, 2001)

## ***As Part of Exterior Stonework Repair*** **Sealing, Moistening, Drying Joints Final Steps in Process**



After he places the final layer of mortar in between stones, and after mortar dries for 45 minutes, he smooths the surface.



He moistens the final mortar layer with a sponge to slow its curing and strengthen the joint.



A finished joint – looking good!  
(Photos by Daniel Foster and Joe Rutledge)

To complete the intricate process of repairing the exterior stonework of the Idaho Statehouse, a procedure that will be repeated many times as the building's exterior is repaired during the next several months and throughout the New Year, this week's issue highlights the final two steps in this masonry process. In last week's issue we explained the steps taken in the placement of new mortar, a procedure carefully done by incremental layers. The photos above show a masonry worker using a special smoothing tool to apply finishing touches to the new mortar once it has been allowed to dry for 45 minutes. Next he moistens the joint once again to slow its curing which ultimately strengthens the mortar and makes the joint more durable.

The East Step Replacement Project is moving right along. On Friday, November 9 workers poured concrete into frames for the middle landing section of the East steps, and for the lower steps down to the ground level. This week workers are curing the concrete by placing wet burlap over the newly poured sections, which they then cover with a sheet

of plastic. Fortunately, there will be no odor associated with this since the workers do not need to apply any primer. According to Joe Rutledge, Project Manager, this layering of burlap covered by plastic slows the curing process. The curing will take a week and the burlap and plastic will help minimize any chance of the new concrete cracking.

Watch for the wooden forms, the framework, for the end corners of the East steps by week's end. Once these forms are constructed workers will charge ahead on pouring new concrete. Weather permitting, the concrete for the end corners will be poured in a week.

**Please note:** The intent of *renewal news* is to provide readers the most current and complete information as possible regarding construction activities during the Capitol Restoration project. However, construction schedules are always subject to change, based upon weather conditions, transport and acquisition of support equipment and personnel, or other unforeseen circumstances. Inquiries, comments on the Restoration effort can be sent to **Diane Blume at:** [dblume@adm.state.id.us](mailto:dblume@adm.state.id.us) See *renewal news* online at: <http://www.idahocapitolcommission.org/whatsnew.html> If you have questions about this newsletter, contact Carole Schroeder at 332-1802 or [cshroed@adm.state.id.us](mailto:cshroed@adm.state.id.us)